

**REMARKS**

*Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §112*

Claims 16-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. These claims have been amended to overcome the non-substantive errors noted by the Examiner. Applicants submit that all claims are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

*Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102*

Applicants acknowledge, with thanks, indication that claims 1-15 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections set forth in the office action. Claims 16-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gohara et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,159,591.

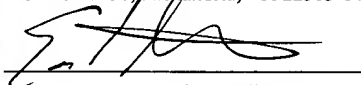
Applicants have substantially amended independent claims 16, 18, 20, and 21. Applicants submit that these claims are now distinguishable over U.S. Patent No. 5,159,591 issued to Gohara et al. ("Gohara"). Moreover, given that claims 17 and 19 depend from independent claims 16 and 18, respectively, it follows that dependent claims 17 and 19 are likewise patentably distinguishable over Gohara.

Applicants have added new claim 22. Please note that new claim 22 is a combination of original claims 16 and 17. Original independent claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being unpatentable over Gohara. Likewise, dependent claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being unpatentable over Gohara. Applicants submit that original dependent claim 17 is patentably distinguishable over Gohara. In rejecting original independent claim 16, the Office Action equates the claimed buffer to Gohara's buffer 2. Moreover, the Office Action equates the claimed switching fabric with Gohara's switching section 3. Figure 1 of Gohara clearly shows that buffer 2 is coupled to switching section 3 via a single port. Newly added claim 22 sets forth:

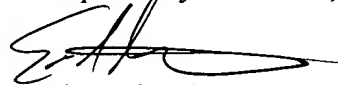
Wherein the buffer is coupled to the switching fabric via first and second data ports of the plurality of data ports.

Clearly Gohara does not teach or fairly suggest the foregoing limitation either alone or in combination with the remaining limitation of newly added independent claim 22. Accordingly, Applicants submit that newly added independent claim 22 is patentably distinguishable over Gohara.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5093.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop <u>Amendment</u> , Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on <u>Oct 28, 2004</u> .	
	<u>Oct 28, 2004</u>
Attorney for Applicant(s)	Date of Signature

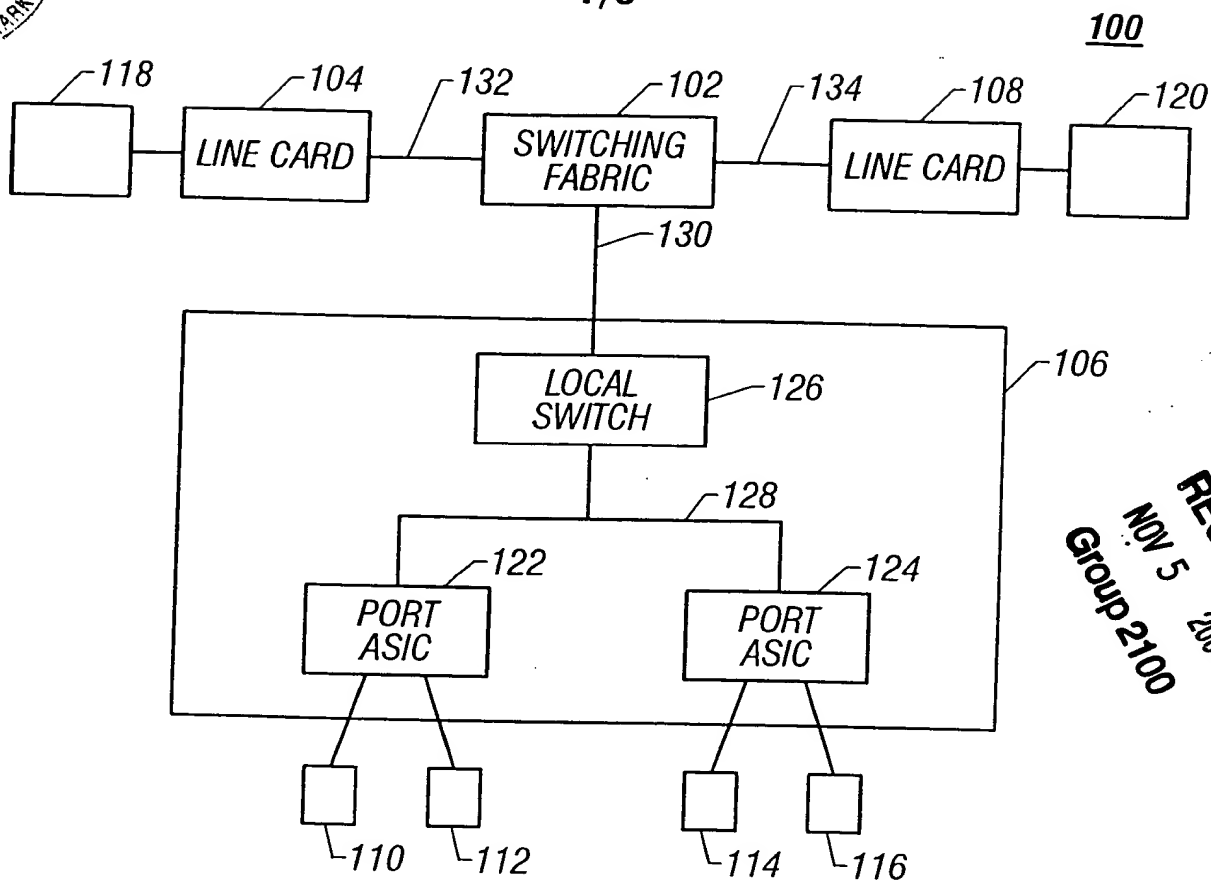
Respectfully submitted,



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**FIG. 1**  
(Prior Art)

200

SOURCE IP ADDRESS	<u>202</u>
SOURCE PORT NUMBER	<u>204</u>
DESTINATION IP ADDRESS	<u>206</u>
DESTINATION PORT NUMBER	<u>208</u>
DATA	<u>210</u>
DATA	<u>210</u>
⋮	
DATA	<u>210</u>

**FIG. 2**  
(Prior Art)



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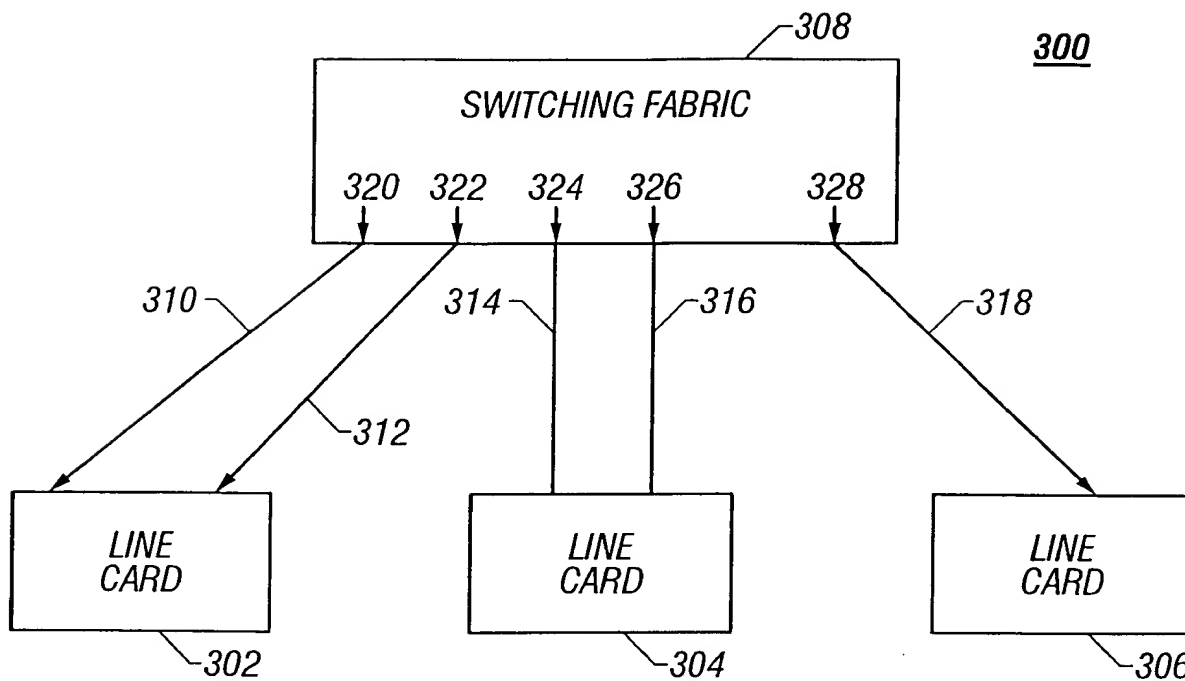


FIG. 3  
(Prior Art)